

# **MINUTES**

## **Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee**

**Thursday, February 25, 2010**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Building**

**93 Cottage Street**

### **I. Call to Order by Anne Krieg at 8:33 A.M.**

Members present: Anne Krieg, Paul Paradis, Chris Fogg, Charlie Phippen, Bob Bahr, Shane Carter, Fred Cook, Jeff Dobbs, Alice Long, Nate Young, Greg Gordon, and Amy Powers.

Also present, Terri Cormier, Assistant to the Planning Department

### **II. Election of Officers:**

The following officers were elected; Chair- Paul Paradis, Vice-Chair- Anne Krieg, and Secretary-Fred Cook.

### **III. Minutes**

Approval of minutes was tabled until next meeting.

### **IV. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted

### **V. Regular Business**

- A. Gathering of Committee contact information: Paul Paradis submitted a spreadsheet of contact information for the current cruise ship committee members for review.
- B. Outline of meeting packet information deadlines and method of packet distribution: Paul reported that the deadline to submit materials for distribution are the Thursdays before each meeting and that emails should be submitted to him and cc'd to Terri Cormier for distribution to the members.
- C. Review of Cruise Ordinance Mission and Goals: Paul reported the committee goals and yearly report to Town Council as well as the November deadline for budget requests.
- D. Pending Projects: Update on Survey and Methodology to move project forward. Anne passed out question sheets and reported on the current status of the project. She discussed the goals, methods and distribution of the survey with the committee. Specific comments on questions were also discussed. The use of the survey was discussed as well. Methods of distribution of this survey will include the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Cable Channel, email, press releases, and the June 2010 Town Meeting. Concerns on reaching renters and local merchants were expressed. Postcard

mailings will also be considered. Further refinement of the survey text will be done the committee to clarify and condense.

*Nate moved to form a sub-committee for the survey and this was seconded with all in favor. Subcommittee members will be Amy Powers and Chris Fogg; they will refine the questions and report back to the members in one week.*

Charlie asked if the subcommittee would email them the questions as soon as possible so that the members can review them prior to the next meeting to be voted on.

**E. Update on Cruisemaine activities:**

Amy Powers reported on the current activities with Cruisemaine. She reported that they are currently looking into a large software program to better advertise and work with cruise ship destinations in Maine. She felt that this would be a good investment for Bar Harbor to be involved in this software package. The cost of the package is \$50,000.00 for the entire platform package, she mentioned that they are applying for some funding to help with the cost but there would be some expense for the Town of Bar Harbor. Anne mentioned that she has seen the software package and was very impressed. Chris Fogg asked how this software is geared, to the consumer or business. He also asked how many “hits” they currently have to their website, Amy felt it was around 2000 a month. Amy further reported they are looking to expand their outreach with other ports involved and that they are hoping to have this up and running by June 2010.

Amy next reported on the current regulatory operations for the cruise ship industry with relation to emission control areas and the use of low sulfur fuels and how this will affect the cost on the cruise ship industry. She also reported that some areas will not be affected by the new regulations and that there will be further information at the next Sea Trade convention coming up regarding this issue.

**F. Other updates from Resource Group Members:** Greg Gordon asked if we are rescheduling any ships this summer and if the Aurora was scheduled. Charlie Phippen reported on the current schedule and some of the boats that are scheduled this summer. Greg asked for an update on the Cat Ferry Terminal and its current status. Paul reported that it has been discussed as a possible tender operation, but this is still “up in the air” as Bay Ferries has not made any decisions as yet. Council is currently discussing re-zoning for that area as well as it is now residential, this change is zoning will be at the June Town Meeting. The possible uses of the terminal were discussed.

Amy Powers reported that at her last meeting with Customs Border Patrol the port of entry address is currently the Cat Terminal. Amy reported that if the port of entry is lost this would be an issue and discussed Rockland's current work at trying to get a port of entry there.

Chris Fogg mentioned talking to Nova Scotia and the possibility of more traditional ferries for trucking as had in the past, concern was raised for the condition of Rt 3 with more truck traffic. It does not look like there is any interest in this market at this time. Jeff asked about the Inter-coastal ferries and Amy commented there is no funding for this at this time.

Greg asked for an update on the Walking Tour Maps, Anne reported that we have them and they are available at the chamber office.

Chris Fogg reported on the information kiosk for Harborview Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted this down. The chamber is currently working on a volunteer program to man the booth for non-cruise ship days. Paul reported that the previous Cruise Ship Task Force had recommended this to Council. Anne mentioned that this needs to be brought before Council again showing the staffing for non-cruise ship days. Jeff mentioned as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee their members voted against the kiosk but he felt it would be worth bringing it to them again. Chris Fogg said he would work on getting the information on staffing and how many days need to be filled in.

**VI. Public Comment:**

A. There was no public comment.

Fred asked in future if people would give their names and who they are representing for future meeting.

Paul mentioned that public comment is not in the ordinance so it would not be on future agendas, however the chair may ask for public comment at any time in a meeting.

**VII. Next Agenda:**

Items to be discussed at the next meeting are Kiosk and Harbor View Park. Charlie Phippen also asked for further discussion of "Excess Funds" to be added to the agenda and how they are related to the cruise ship funds. Paul gave an overview of these funds. He reported that some Council members felt that the excess funds should be used for a watershed study on Northeast Creek in FY11. Further discussion was held on an Enterprise Fund for the Cruise Ship funds and the need to have a better understanding of what happens to the excess funds from the cruise ship fees. Jeff

asked for a better understanding of the cash flow for the cruise ship budget. Anne also asked to have added to the agenda a review of cruise ship operations and that this would be helpful to the new members.

Anne reported that she would enclose the budget in the next packet of information to members to go over with them how the budget currently works before going to an enterprise fund. Paul also confirmed doing a presentation of the current budget at the next meeting. Chris Fogg mentioned that he is worried Council is diverting funds from Cruise Ship to other areas and he would like to see the enterprise fund. Anne mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> goal of the Cruise Ship Committee and the yearly review and to be more specific how the money should be allocated. Nate reported that Council still has control over the funding no matter what kind of fund it is. Chris mentioned the allocation of cruise ship funds to help with police costs, Nate reported that the current hired officers will be paid from a grant but at the end of the three years that grant will end. Paul reported that he is a strong advocate of the enterprise fund and that members need to go to Council to discuss this more as well but felt that Council was not ready for this yet. Amy Powers mentioned looking at other ports and how they are doing this and learn from them.

Fred asked if they could get a report from the Rt 3 committee and a schedule of construction for buses and traffic affected, Paul reported that the Rt 3 construction is not anywhere near that stage so nothing to report at this time.

Alice Long asked about allocating more funds for cleaning restrooms, Charlie reported that there are currently 80,000.00 allocated in the budget for a contractor to clean the restrooms.

#### **VIII. Set next meeting time, date and place.**

Paul reported that the committee should meet more often in April and May prior to the cruise ship season. Jeff felt the committee should meet more often as it is a new group. Discussion was held as to the best time of day for the members to be able to attend. It was further discussed to continue the meeting day to be Thursdays and the time at 1:00 in the afternoon and also keep the meetings under 2 hours. The next meeting will be March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Paul asked the members to please let him know if they are unable to attend.

#### **IX. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.**

*These minutes were prepared by the Planning Department Administrative Assistant, Terri Cormier for committee review at their March 25, 2010 meeting.*